

Tyler Junior College News

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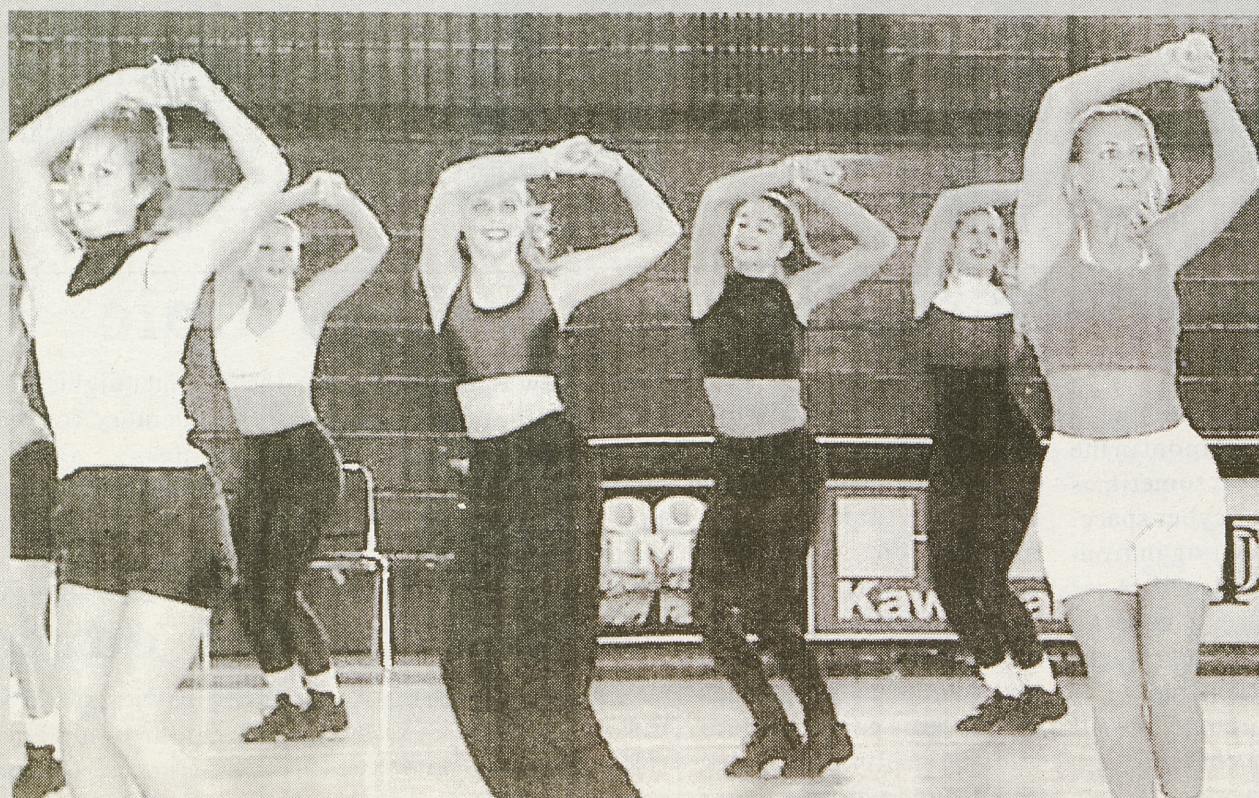


photo by Mike Pero

I'M READY FOR MY CLOSE UP— Members of the Apache Bells practice a dance routine for their upcoming trip to Ireland during Spring Break where they will march in the Lord Mayor's St. Patrick's Day Parade in Dublin. They include Meg Toregrassa, Leslie O'Keely, Amy Leister, Jessica Hall, Kristi Spradlin and Laura Neal.

Peters says interim dean 'caretaker'

by Ashley Thompkins
page editor

After 34 years, 32 of them teaching history and government, Dr. Bob Peters became interim dean of liberal and fine arts Jan. 10. He replaces Dr. Linda Watkins who resigned to take a position at San Jacinto College.

"My duties are just to be a caretaker until the position is permanently filled," Peters.

"I am not sure what will happen when they choose a dean. I was eligible to retire four years ago and chose not to," Peters said.

He is not applying for the dean position, he said, because "they need someone who can commit to the college at least until the year 2006. I do not believe that I am completely willing to make that commitment."

Peters has directed the social sciences program and the new degree option, FAS-Track.

He graduated from TJC in 1961 and earned B.A. in 1962 at Texas Christian University. Peters earned his M.A. from Stephen F. Austin State University in 1964 and in 1977 completed a Ph.D. in history at the University of Texas at Austin.

"I was an instructor of history and governments from 1966 until 1996," Peters said.

The most challenging aspect of his new position, Peters said, is having to think and do so many things in such a compressed amount of time.

Board approves programs, reviews renovation plans

by Julie Steck and Coretta Williams
page editors

The Board of Trustees approved two new academic programs and heard reports on campus renovation projects at their meeting Feb. 24.

The y approved an associate of applied science degree in Global Information Systems and a certificate program in pharmacy technology.

GIS courses will begin next fall to train students for jobs in local government agencies, appraisal districts, distribution companies, forestry and others at base salaries around \$25,000. This program is not designed for trans-

fer students, but for those working in these fields who want to improve their work skills.

The pharmacy program will also begin next fall to train quality pharmacy technicians who can earn certificates in one year.

Students will practice in a mock lab at the Regional Training and Development Complex. In the lab, equipped with discarded bottles from real pharmacy labs, students will experiment with dry beans and peas instead of real drugs.

This program will train students to succeed in the workplace. Start-up cost for the program is \$36,000, primarily the salary of instructors, Financial Services Director Ben Ferrell said.

Project manager Jeff Schild from Johnson Controls reported on renovation projects. TJC is spending almost \$7 mil-

lion to replace old toilets, install larger lights, improve the heating and cooling system and put film on the windows to save energy.

"With the work 20 percent complete, it looks to be finished by October," Schild said. "The lighting is 40 percent complete. We are presently working in the RTDC Building and should complete it by next month."

One of two chillers, which run the cooling system, has been removed, leaving one to serve the whole campus, he said. The goal is to have the new chillers installed by spring break and get them on-line as soon as possible.

With half of the renovation budget spent, Schild said, the renovation project looks like it will be within the budgeted amount.

Biology Instructor Judy Pilgrim briefed board mem-

bers on the Eisenhower Science Grant Program.

"Participants learn real science with hands-on science education," Pilgrim said.

TJC, the only junior college to receive two awards, will use the grant money, to train middle and high school teachers to learn more effective skills in teaching science.

Before attending this program, some teachers were not involved in science partly because of the lack of experience and low budgets. Some science teachers would skip teaching sections on microscopes, Pilgrim said, because they did not know how to use them. This new training allows teachers and students to become excited about learning something new.

The Board approved a resolution honoring the late Coach Floyd Wagstaff who died Feb. 5.

**Apache Ladies
head to national
tourney. See
story, Page 8**

CAMPUS F•O•C•U•S

Do you think online chat rooms are useful or just a waste of cyberspace?



Cylisa Thompson

"They can be used for really important things and then again, it's not very useful for everyday life."



Kimberly Johnson

"It's real neat until you run into freaks. Then it's kind of scary."



Tre Bowdre

"It's an excellent way to meet people and find out what's going on in the world."



Candy Sinclair

"I used to enjoy it but now I don't have time anymore."



Eric Colvin

"People in chatrooms don't bother me, but I don't get into it that much."

Cyber space chatter remembers topic

by Hannah Buchanan
page editor

There's nothing like a good, *clean* chat room in the wonderful, yet sometimes risky, world of cyber space. I find myself sitting in front of my teal-colored Acer computer, when I have no other plans, during week-ends chatting on-line.

In mid march of 1997, I downloaded a chat program named ICQ (whose creators gave it that name because the letters sound like the phrase "I seek you"). I don't know who knows about this particular program existing, but I've heard it's steadily growing in popularity. Of course, like all computer technology, as soon as you think you have the latest version there's another one with new enhanced features.

The latest version of ICQ (which soon will be obsolete because it came out in August of 1999) has unique features that make its chat rooms stand above the rest. There's a drop-down menu of different "actions" one can "act out". The result: "Sally coughs loudly, trying to get some attention" Another feature which deepens the chat room experience is the insane laughter (my favorite). A person holds down the control button on their keyboard, while pressing the L button at the same time, everyone in the chat room hears insane laughing for about four sec-

onds.

Not only are the new features great, but so are the topics. They can get down right silly at times. I remember one night two summer's ago. We - the little band of on-line chatters, who were familiar with the program, and knew each other (not personally of course) were discussing about our favorite type of food. The topic changed naturally to restaurants, one in particular was McDonald's. Out of nowhere, a girl types something similar to this:

"Ronald McDonald scares me!!!!"

The topic veers off from that to clowns and then finally to scary movies. Those topics varied alright. I thought to myself, while everyone else typed in "lol," which means in the cyberworld "laughing out loud." Out of all the non-serious chat room discussions I have had, I remember this one best. Yeah, it was crazy - in a funny yet stupid way, now as I think about it. Of course, none of us at the time thought of it as stupid. The chat room was just fun. We enjoyed it - and the topics, no matter who thought of them or how stupid they turned out to be.

Im wondering what the next version of ICQ will have in its chat rooms. In a way, I am anxiously await-

ing the new version. I know in the future, I'll be in more chat rooms, and more silly stupid topics will come up, but that particular chat discussion which occurred

that summer night, will stay in my memory for the rest of my life.

Ronald McDonald scares me too.

Letter to the editor

Reading Danny Gallagher's opinion piece on science (Tyler Junior College News, February 21) brought me back to my own early days in college. I can understand the sentiment, and appreciate its humorous presentation. "Why do we have to take this course?" is a question I hear every so often, and it deserves a serious answer. My passion was with all the sciences, and like Danny, I didn't understand why I must take "other" courses outside my areas of interest--for me: Texas Government, English composition, or American History. But take them I did, and when I opened my mind to the truths I found in these courses, and to the inherent worth of the wisdom they contained, they changed my life.

I discovered that the dynamics of Texas Government lead me to be an active, informed voter rather than an apathetic critic; in English, I encountered the beauty and power that rests in words; in American history, I unearthed the foundations of democracy, the voices of the founding fathers given voice. In those courses I learned basic knowledge in a number of subjects. I found that if a course hadn't changed my perception of the world--perhaps just a little--I wasn't working hard enough.

In later years, that cannon of information has served me well; it has become food for critical thinking about how the world is put together--what it's all about, and my place in it. What I learned in those early years of college set the stage for my maturation as a person and fueled my creativity. I have tried to bring that creativity with me into the classroom.

And so it is with science, too. Science is both a path to truth and a philosophy. It cannot claim to have all the answers, but rather, possible answers. It is part of the light provided by many philosophies that illuminates truth. Part of what we do in college is all about counting absences, averaging grades, and assigning course credit--but part of what we do here transcends that, too. Each of your instructors, through the subjects they teach, is trying to help you grow as an educated person and to help you accomplish your dreams--beyond our classroom walls. In the end, it is often true that what you get out of something is equal to what you put into it.

But more important in the long run is the continuing, life long development of a person--and college is a place where that broadening begins.

Chuck Thornton
Instructor of Geology

Tyler Junior College News

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Reality Check

'Generation X' causing more stereotypes than Taco Bell's dog



by Danny Gallagher
editor-in-chief

Forty years ago, two generations began to gradually separate, moving farther apart.

One was a group of aging, conservative office workers longing for the days when swing was king and alcohol sat in underground warehouses in giant, unopened barrels.

The other was a group of young, liberal protestors who longed for a world of peace, harmony and drugs that only cost a

dollar and were dispensed from a vending machine. Half of the second group are members of my family.

Leap ahead to the year 2000. Not only are there no flying cars that take us to and from work like the Hanna-Barbera company promised us, but a new gap is slowly separating the Generation X group from...well, actually just me. I really dislike the generation label that society sticks to my forehead just because I like wearing baggy, cargo shorts and Doc Marten sandals in the middle of winter.

I've never understood why so-

ciety has this strange appetite for grouping similar-looking individuals into stereotypical clusters. I also don't like the image that has been so graciously carved out for me.

According to several recent articles in USA Today, Newsweek and Playboy (see, I told you I read them for the articles), the Xers of today focus their efforts on achieving such goals as trying to get the Cartoon Network to air "The Powder Puff Girls" commercial free and the enforcement of the "30-minutes late and it's free" commandment.

The music we listen to doesn't help the X image either. I'm not saying I totally despise alternative or heavy metal music, but it doesn't leave confused teens with a very strong message based on its content.

Note to MTV: if you're going to hire some struggling musician to write a new chart-topping hit, don't keep writing the same incessant lyric over and over and over. Repeating lyrics like "my heart feels like a puppy in the dishwasher" doesn't bring any doves to the mosh pit, Ghandi.

Now am I suggesting that all gen-Xers should be kidnapped

from their homes in the middle of night, tied to a chair and brain-washed so they constantly wear Armani suits and drink Starbucks coffee? Absolutely not! Forcing someone to drink a Frappachino is actually considered a form of sodomy in seven states.

Instead, we need to look outside the X generation's so-called "diseased culture" and ask ourselves why the public quickly follows to someone else's snap judgments purely based on physical appearance or opinions.

Just like those gun-toting, food-gumming, war-causing old dudes.

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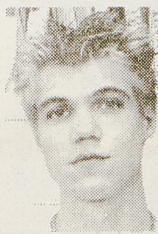
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'Millionaire' shows -TV's new low



by Mike Pero
page editor

Who wants to be a millionaire? Translated: who wants to be brutally interrogated by a short, funny-looking man and made a fool of on national TV all for a near-impossible chance at \$1 million (which would amount to about \$600,000 after the government takes their share)?

Not me. I can't even stand to watch it happen to someone else.

Admitted, television today is pretty lame. Just take "Cops" for example. We're amused and entertained by the idiot crackheads in downtown LA who are dumb enough to get caught. But, at least "Cops" showcases sex and drugs. You can't say that about game shows.

For years, I've wondered at the kind of people who watch game shows. A few years ago they weren't so bad. Shows like "Jeopardy" actually taught attentive watchers answers to relative questions and penny-pin-

ing housewives could watch "The Price is Right" before they went shopping.

But then ABC had the great idea to build a huge, neon-lit arena, recruit a washed-up daytime talk show host, assemble a smorgasboard of random questions and then show everybody how stupid some Americans can be as they teased and tantalized them with wads of cash.

We can just see Billy Doe and his family all huddled around the TV, rendered immobile by this "fascinating" show.

"Shhh, everybody quiet, he's askn' the question."

"How many seeds are in

an apple?"

"Oh, boy, that's a tough one. Can't wait till they show his

**You want to
phone Kathie
Lee?!?**



this show has had the highest ratings over the last few weeks.

If this weren't bad enough, FOX decided it would be a great idea to marry a millionaire on national TV. Of course, everybody already poisoned from "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" was fixated on "Who

Wants to Marry a Millionaire."

The spin-off proved to be nothing more than a beauty pageant with a sick twist. If I ever get married (providing major television networks haven't made it obsolete by then) I think going to stick the time-consuming, exhausting, yet rewarding way people did it back in the 20th Century.

If humans could sell their souls, ABC would be the market and they'd be going for a million bucks a pop.

I'll bet he's sweatn' bullets. Well, lookie there, I was right."

"Daddy?"

"Quiet, you, can't you see I'm concentratin'?"

And on it goes; for a whole hour in fact. Sadly enough,

Science fair revisted

The Science Fair story in the Feb. 21 TJC News contained incorrect information. Contrary to what you read earlier, no elementary students participated but some 500 middle and high school students were involved.

Middle schoolers came from: Boulter, Hogg, Hubbard, Moore, Stewart and Thomas. K. Gorman schools in Tyer and Arp, Chapel Hill, Dogan, Maude Laird in Kilgore and Troup.

The high schools were: Grace Community, T.K. Gorman and Whitehouse.

Jacksonville Middle School students came to visit the fair and look at the projects.

TJC students helped manage this event. They include members of: Phi Theta Kappa, respiratory care students, biology majors and environmental science students, as well as the Geology Club and the Scholar's Academy.

TJC will host the next Science Fair Feb. 15 2001.



Crisis center offers helping hand, shoulder to lean on

by Shauna Dunkel
staff writer

Students with stressful problems may not know where to find help. Three licensed professional counselors on campus can help. They are; Testing Director Ken Luke, Support Services Director Dr. Vickie Geisel; and Career Planning and Placement Director Melinda Coker. They can counsel about

problems with boyfriends/girlfriends, school, family or friends.

Students can talk to any of these counselors and get professional advice. If students just need someone to hear their troubles, they can do that.

"Listening is half the battle, Geisel said.

Sometimes crisis situations arise - attempted suicide, running away, abusing friends and family. If these

are reported to Campus Safety, an officer will check out the situation and seek help. Life-threatening problems, officers take students to the emergency room. If the student just needs counseling, they call on Luke.

Luke typically spends three to five sessions with the student over a few weeks. This is called brief therapy. He talks about what is going on in their lives, helps them see what is wrong and sug-

gests what they can do together to fix the problem."

Ken Luke is a great resource to the students," Director of Campus Safety Randy Melton said.

Luke has been helping students here 10 years, but he has been a counselor for 28 years.

"Helping people is my passion," Luke said.

Another resource is the East Texas Crisis Center at 1-800-333-0358.

Renovations projects fix, improve around campus

by Julie Steck
page editor

The renovation projects around campus have come across a few unhappy customers due to the unseasonably warm weather.

Project coordinator from Johnson Controls Jeff Schild offers relief by the end of April.

TJC is spending \$6.9 million to complete the renovation project. With the newly installed window films and a more efficient and cooling systems, the buildings will conserve more energy and drastically reduce the price of cooling.

"We had some problems last summer with the cooling system, and we wanted to get the problem fixed before it got too late," Financial Services Director Ben Farrell said.

There will be one main tank located next to the maintenance barn that will hold thousands of gallons of chilled water. At night, air condition-

ing is cheaper to run because of the lower demand. The air will run during the night and the cool water will be stored in the tank which will then be distributed

Hudnall Planetarium, Pertle buildings 1,2, and 5, which is the third floor, which will allow cooled air to circulate more thoroughly, Schild said.

ery building. Workers are now in the Wise Fine Arts building and all the buildings should be completed by June 1.

The lighting, plumbing, window film, and cooling systems are all scheduled to be completed by October or November.



photo by Danny Gallagher

A pile of broken sidewalk left behind by the work of the renovation crew just outside Potter Hall.

throughout the school in the morning. The same will be done for heat, except it will be kept in a boiler.

The construction being done by the duck pond and the Wise Cultural Arts building is the process of digging around the pipes, so that by spring break, workers can cut off the water and drain the pipes. They will extend the pipes to Vaughn library, Cultural and Fine Arts building,

Farrell said even though the plan for renovation is set, there still may be some problems in the future.

"The schedule is tight, and it's causing some inconveniences," Farrell said.

"The project is staying on budget and once the chillers are delivered, it should go quickly," Schild said.

New energy-efficient lighting is also being installed in ev-

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College reps to recruit transfers

by Coretta Williams
page editor

Four representatives of colleges will be on campus this month recruiting students for Fall 2000.

Students will learn about the Northeastern Texas Transfer System, transferring credits to a four-year institution, degree plans, and financial aid and scholarships. College catalogs, admission

applications and other information will be available.

Representatives from Texas A&M University-Commerce will come March 22. Students may visit with them 10 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Genecov Foyer. The representatives will return from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 18 on second floor of Pirtle Technology Center.

Stephen F. Austin State University representatives

will be on campus from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. March 28 in Jenkins Hall between the stairwells. SFA will return from 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. April 26 in the same location.

Representatives from the University of Texas-Dallas will be on campus from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. March 29 in Jenkins Hall between the stairwells.

The University of Texas

at Tyler will have representatives on campus from 9 a.m. - noon March 21 on the second floor in Pirtle. They will return from 9 a.m. - noon April 10 in Jenkins Hall.

Closing date for Fall 2000 applications to Texas A&M-College Station is April 1.

For more information, contact Admissions Secretary Pat Beam at 510-2398.

Financial aid plans 10 workshops

by Kristi Flippin
page editor

Financial Aid staff plans 10 free financial aid workshops this spring for students to receive assistance in apply for federal and state financial aid for the 2000- 2001 school year.

These workshops will be from 2 to 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 to 8 p.m. March 6, April 3 and May 1 in the Apache Rooms.

On April 17 the workshops will be in the White Administrative Service Center Board Room.

Counselors and specialists will be at the workshops to answer questions and help students fill out the Free Application for Student Financial Aid step by step. Once completed students can have it entered electronically.

"We are trying to encourage returning TJC students to apply early so we can get their reply in a couple of weeks instead of having to wait a few months during the peak season," financial aid specialist Celia Bunt said.

You may receive materials in the Financial Aid Office in the WASC to apply early for next fall.



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TJC Touchstone 2001

Get guidelines and information in Liberal and Fine Arts
Dean's Office, Jenkins Hall 152



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March 22nd Wednesday

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April 18th Tuesday

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Officers focus on safe campus

Campus Safety officers are committed to preventing crime and keeping students safe. "By maintaining a safe environment for all students and employees," Campus Safety Director Randy Melton said.

"To accomplish this, we do investigate all crimes and offenses fully," Melton said.

Officers refer all incidents to the college disciplinary committee.

Each offense is looked at on a case-by-case basis. Punishments may vary. A student may be required to receive counseling, write a report over their offense, do community service, be put on administrative probation or if necessary, suspended from TJC for a year.

"Campus Safety is here to provide a sense of comfort and stability," Melton said.

Students gain study tips

To be successful, students should find out their own learning style and their instructor's teaching style. Student Services specialist Renee Hawkins told participants in Study Skills seminar recently. She advised taking a five-minute break every 45 minutes you study.

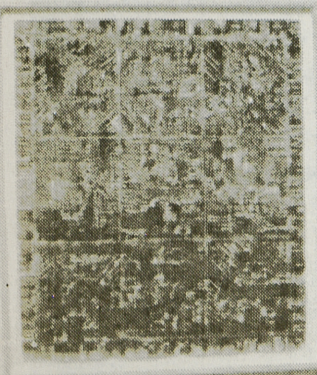
Hawkins uses these techniques in her classes, and many other instructors are adding them to their lesson plans. She created the Yellow Pages of Success to use in her classes. Sixty percent of students miss questions on a test, she said, because they read poorly not do so because they read poorly.

Students who completed the seminar left more aware of good study habits, and new information about themselves.

Art museum calendar

March 25 through April 9

- *Art Links- North Gallery
- *Trudy Kraft exhibition- Bell Gallery
- *Hindu paintings- Carmichael Gallery



Saturday, March 25

- *Art and Bloom Gala
- Sunday, March 26
- *Tea- Lecture with P.K. Dass and Hindu paintings

Thursday, March 30

- *Tray Chic Party
- *Tyler Area Council for Garden Clubs Flower Show opens

Friday March 31

- *Coffee/ Lecture with "The Dirt Doctor" Howard Garret

Saturday, April 1

- *Family Day at the Tyler Museum of Art

Sunday, April 2

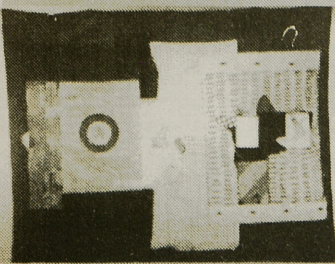
- *"Texas Bound" Matinee and Reception

Thursday, April 6

- *Junior League 50th Anniversary Reception

Saturday, April 8 and Sunday April 9

- *Edom Art Fair



'Moon' cast begins rehearsals

by Shawna Dunkel
staff writer

Theater Instructor Vic Siller has cast for the TJC Theatre final production this year, "Moon Over Buffalo," a comedy by Ken Ludwig.

The cast includes: Brady Talbot as George Hay, Sarah Reed as Charlotte Hay, Terri Bolton as Ethel, Kim Martin as Rosalind, Aaron Shearer as Howard, Gwen Edwards as Eileen, Tim Britt as Paul, and Kirk Race as Richard.

This comedy opens with the Acting Company presenting a play called "Cyrano de Bergerac" set in the French War in 1640. It moves immediately to the backstage green room where actors get ready to go on stage in another play

they do, "Private Lives." "Moon" takes place in the

a small acting troupe, almost set their "big break" in Frank Capra's production of "The Scarlet Pimpernel." Capra's two main actors fail so he goes to New York to find the Hays. But George gets blistering drunk and fails to get the



photo by Danny Gallagher

Kimberlee Martin as Rosalind and John Brady Talbot as George rehearse a scene from "Moon Over Buffalo." The play opens April 13.

1950s in Buffalo, NY. The two lead actors, Charlotte and George Hay, who lead

job done. "This play is a lot of physical humor with a

sword fight and farce. It is an adult comedy, simply because children won't understand," Siller said of "Moon", "It's just for a fun evening."

Theater and Speech Instructor Jacques Shackelford, who will direct costumes, faces a big task because she must costume three shows in one. Theater and Speech Instructor Rebecca Faulds, in charge of the makeup, must create a fake mustache and a big Cyrano nose. Theater and Speech Instructor Clarence Strickland must design three sets.

The play will run April 13-18 at 7:30 p.m. nightly except for a 2 p.m. Sunday matinee in Jean Browne Theater. The Box Office will open one week before the show. Tickets cost \$3.

Art in Bloom, Edom Fair to come to Museum

by Julie Steck
page editor

Tyler Museum of Art's annual Art and Bloom fundraiser starts March 25 and continues nine days to exhibit the museums' exquisite artwork.

The first day of Art and Bloom will be special. The Museum will provide great food and a live auction to sell a sparkling piece of jewelry provided by Charles Crypell. Tickets cost \$90 for non-members and \$75 for members. This price includes a chance to win a trip to New York City to see the Tony Awards and an Armani style show and lunch at Neiman Marcus Northpark along with a week's stay at a luxurious hotel.

"Since Art and Bloom is during the Azalea Trail festivities, we hope to have many tourists and have a wonderful opportunity to show off our fine museum," Education Curator Debbie Kuster said.

Art Links will be another attraction presented in the Art and Bloom festivities. There

will be nine miniature golf holes in the museum that an invited artist has carefully designed. They will range from

event. Food and drink will be provided as well as a harpist to complete the setting. Admission is \$5 and parking is free.

many years and we're glad to have it coming to Tyler," Kuster said. "This exhibit is something TJC students would really enjoy."

TJC and Tyler Museum of Art have formed many partnerships through these different fund-raisers, and "Texas Bound" is one of them. "Texas Bound" has featured in the Dallas Museum of Art and other places around Texas for eight years. It features Texas actors reading short stories written by respected Texas writers. The performance is scheduled for April 2 at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and seating is limited.

At least 75 artists have already committed to Edom Art Fair

humorous to serious to challenging depending on the style of the artist. Kuster is hoping this event will broaden the museums' audience by bringing in more of a variety of people.

Last summer East Texans learned that after 26 years, the Edom Art Fair would no longer be held in its usual location, about 15 miles from Tyler. Tyler Museum of Art is pleased to announce its return. It will be featured on April 8 and 9 at the museum. At least 75 artists from all over the Southwest have already committed to this

Everyone is welcome on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.

"Edom has been a strong tradition of East Texas for

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Remembering WWII

Former POW remembers harshness of prison life

by Julie Steck
page editor

Hayes Bolitho, an average-sized man with sparkling blue eyes, dark hair and a sweet smile, now has a few gray strands of hair, but his smile has not faded. The World War II prisoner of war survived the treacherous battle field and Japanese prisoner camp more than 55 years ago.

Bolitho was drafted into the infantry in when he was 22 and served our country for four years. He first went to Utah for basic training that eventually led to extensive gunnery training in Illinois and San Antonio. He also learned the rules of flying, but, to his dismay, every plane he had experience on was sent to Australia instead.

For five miserable months, Bolitho fought in the Pacific. From there he and his crew were sent on missions. On their second mission, their plane was attacked by the Japanese and crashed on the shore of Mindinao. Night provided their only hope of escape, but the Japanese finally boxed them into a corner and they were forced to surrender. They were all taken to an old Philippine camp for six months, and then transferred to Davao Pino colony, where the real punishment began.

"We worked on rice detail," Bolitho said. "They took our shoes away, and we had no clothing because they were so worn-out. So we had to run around in G-strings and no hats to shade the pounding sun."

With 2,000 other prisoners they stood knee-deep in muddy paddies to harvest the rice.

The harshness of Japanese prison extended even to the animals. He remembered an

incident when he was assigned to clean out the chicken coop.

"The Japanese put a sign on one chicken; 'DO NOT FEED,'" Bolitho said.

"This chicken had pecked at one of its eggs and broke it. This is how the chickens get their calcium, but they even put this chicken in solitary confinement without food

or water."

Bolitho chose these work details because he ate better than those in the camps where prisoners were fed only rice.

Those who worked in the rice paddies were allowed to go down to the swamps and gather some weeds. They brought them back to the compound and boiled them to supplement their rice diet.

Bolitho joined another 500 others prisoners for another work detail, building two air strips for the Japanese Air Force.

The Japanese picked only men in good condition to work on such assignments. Being in good shape didn't mean you were a marathon runner or world champion wrestler. You just had to have the basics.

"I weighed about 95 pounds and was considered in good shape, because I could walk," Bolitho said.

"It was brutal work," he said. "We had to dig these corals with a pick and shovel, no shoes and throw them on the back of a truck. They were taken to a flat surface and dumped. We had to break them up into small pieces to be used to pave the airstrip."

They used a 350-pound cyl-

inder, three and a half feet in diameter, with four poles, one on each side. It took four men just to lift this much weight, and then slam it on the coral to break it up. They did this all day every day for a month until they were transferred again.

"When we were transferred, we had to walk in groups of five for two miles. The inside men had a rope tied around their waists, and the outside men had the rope around their necks. If anyone stepped too soon or too late, that was it. It sure kept everyone in line," Bolitho said.

Once they all settled on the Japanese naval ship, the 750 men were assigned to two holds, each about the size of an average classroom and about four stories high. Half had to sit and half had to stand because there was not room for all to do either. For 17 days and 18 nights, the men were allowed half a canteen of water and a handful of rice per day.

"We could only travel at night. During the day in that ship, temperature in the hold would reach 130 degrees

and people would pass out which would cause fights," Bolitho said. "In some cases, we had to throw people down to make them stop fighting so we wouldn't all get shot."

In Zamboanga, and American torpedo hit their convoy, killing everyone on either side of Bolitho and leaving only a handful standing.

"I worked my way out from where the torpedo blasted

through and made it eventually to the top deck," Bolitho said.

Dodging machine gun fire right and left he jumped off the deck, landed safely in the water and began to swim. Finally at shore, he ran into a friend. Together they found an English-speaking boy who helped them find shelter and medical attention for the night.

Bolitho and his friend received word that an American submarine would be at Lloyd Point in two days. The Point was seven miles away in the tropics. With a broken foot that was "bleeding like a stuffed pig," and gangrene covering his side and fingers, Bolitho traveled to meet this ship. Friends used a sharpened pocket knife to treat his wounds, scraping away the gangrene each day.

Finally the long-awaited submarine arrived and Bolitho and 81 other men were saved.

They were the first large group to ever escape a Japanese prisoner-of-war camp.

When Bolitho's injuries were finally treated, everything was healing fine except his jaw. Doctors had to re-break it and then set it again before it finally healed.

Soon after the War, Bolitho met his future wife, Irene, when he went to a doctor. They met in January and were married in June, 55 years ago.

Bolitho worked 34 years as a salesman for the Grocery Production Division of General Mills. He moved through the ranks from salesman, to district and regional manager. Now retired, he and Irene live at Holly Lake Ranch.



Scarborough wins last space

The last parking place for Brookshire's Grocery receipts was awarded to Business Instructor Mary Scarborough who turned in \$1,899 last Friday. Since September, students and faculty collected receipts to win reserved parking space and fund a scholarship.

Faculty have participated since fall, 1998, and student competition was added this year, Alumni Relations Director Betty Briggs said.

Brookshire's will give the College one percent of all receipts turned in by March 12. The money will fund scholarships for employees' children. The free parking spots were added to encourage participation.

Other student winners include Sue Hayes, Brandy McGowen, Sarah Montgomery and Melissa Raynor.

Other faculty winners include Linda Cross, Pat Cryer, Kay Dawson, Tim Gill, Susie Johnston, Shelly Kersh, Fran Palmer, Gloria Pegram, Cheryl Rogers, Carl Shotts, Diana Wallis, Pam Wade and Linda Zeigler.

In 1999 faculty collected \$70,000, earning \$700. This year faculty and students combined have turned \$50,144.90.

Faculty and students can turn in receipts until March 12, but no more parking spaces will be awarded.

Game watch

March 8 - Baseball vs. Bossier Parish, Mike Carter Field

March 15 - Baseball vs. Panola in Carthage

March 18 - Baseball vs. Lon Morris in Jacksonville

March 22 - Baseball vs. Paris in Paris

March 25 - Heaton Open Tennis Tournament, Tyler Tennis & Swim

March 25 - Baseball vs. Navarro in Corsicana

March 29 - Baseball vs. Texarkana, in Mike Carter Field

Apache Ladies win region, head to nationals

The Apache Ladies basketball team is headed for the national tourney March 14-18 in Salina, Kan.

Ranked third in the nation, the TJC team defeated Trinity Valley Community College and Kilgore College to win the regional tournament here last weekend. This will be their first trip since 1992 to the national playoffs dominated by Kilgore and TVCC.

Their opponents will be determined once regional games are completed.

Ladies Coach Lee Ann Riley said, "We have a great team and we feel ready for the tournament."

The Apache men lost to San Jacinto College in the regional tourney.

Beach Reach to seek students in need

by Kristi Flippin
page editor

While many college students across Texas will spend Spring Break partying all night and sleeping all day, more than 500 Christian college students will work in Beach Reach at South Padre Island. Twenty will represent TJC.

Beach Reach outreach service program distributes sunscreen packets and cards advertising a free ride hotline, free breakfast every morning and a Christian coffee house to beachgoers on the island.

Beach Reachers use donated church vans to give student tourists a free ride anywhere on the five-mile island from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. every night of Spring Break, to cut down on drinking-related accidents. Beachgoers call the hotline based at Island Baptist Church and a van of Beach Reachers will pick the callers up and take them to their destination. The ride provides an opportunity to talk to them about their relationship with Christ.

"We often get the name 'witness wagon' but near the end of the week many students are tired of partying and ask to just ride around with us and learn more about our faith," Baptist Student Ministry Director Mark Jones said.

A free pancake breakfast is served for students at Island Baptist Church from 8 a.m. to noon each day. Beach Reachers eat and interact with beachgoers and attempt to fellowship with them on a personal level. Breakfast is prepared by volunteer church members and Texas Baptist Disaster Relief and the food is

supplied by local businesses. The Beach Reach Coffee House, located in the Mirimar Hotel, serves free coffee from 10:30 p.m. till 3:30 a.m., to provide a casual at-

mosphere where students can talk, sober up, and relax in a non-bar setting.

"Jesus has helped me leave that kind of lifestyle so Beach Reach is a great opportunity to share my faith and help others change," sophomore BSM member Jessica Caid said.

"... near the end of the week, many students are tired of partying and ask to just ride around with us and learn more about our faith," Baptist Student Minister Mark Jones said.

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